

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 January 2005 (13.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/003573 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:
29/00, 31/04, 39/24, 43/00

F16B 19/04,

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/AU2004/000898

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 1 July 2004 (01.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

2003903340

1 July 2003 (01.07.2003) AU

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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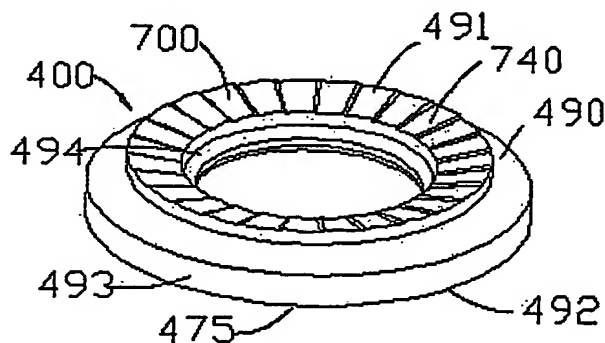
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Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ELASTIC JOINT ELEMENT AND FASTENER ASSEMBLY INCORPORATING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: A fastener assembly for use in a joint in a work-piece comprises a first fastener component for extending through a hole in the work-piece, a second fastener component and a resilient element. The first component has a first contact portion for engaging the work-piece. The second fastener component has a second contact portion for co-operating with the first fastener component to compressively load the work-piece thereby forming the joint. The resilient element is located between the first and second contact portions so that it is it is compressed under load. The resilient element has a first stiffness characteristic when subjected to loading less than a predefined amount and has a higher stiffness characteristic when subjected to loading more than the predefined amount.

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